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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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Argentine Army Uncovers ERP Planning Against U.S. Personnel (Page 1)

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TAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts

TAB B - Terrorist Threats and Plans

I. Western Hemisphere, Including United States

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ARTICLES

Argentine Army Uncovers ERP Planning Against U.S. Personnel

On 28 July the Argentine Army Intelligence Service (SIE) raided a People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) safesite. Among the documents picked up was one dated 30 May and labeled "Datos Operativos." It lists the names, titles, positions, home addresses, and telephone numbers of past and present U.S. Military Group personnel. Both American and Argentine employees are covered.

An ERP militant, who later died of wounds received during the raid, said that one of those listed, a lieutenant colonel, had been singled out for assassination. He indicated that the ERP possessed detailed targeting data on the colonel, even though the captured list did not have his home address or telephone number. The absence of these basic details is probably explained by the fact that he had not permitted this information to appear on the unclassified U.S. Military Group roster. The colonel left Argentina for a new assignment two weeks before the SIE raid.

While the ERP has a penchant for gathering information on U.S. officials, it has succeeded in carrying out relatively few operations against them in recent years. The outstanding exception was the April 1974 kidnapping of Alfred Laun, director of the United States Information Service in Cordoba, by the ERP and the Peronist Armed Forces. Laun was seriously wounded and was released by the terrorists, who probably feared he might die. (See the issues of 17 and 24 April 1974.) In February 1975 John Egan, a U.S. consular agent in Cordoba, was abducted by the Montoneros, possibly in a joint action with the ERP, and was killed when the Argentine government did not yield to the kidnappers' demands that the government produce four imprisoned Montoneros. (See the issue of 4 March 1975.) In November 1975 Argentine security forces raided an ERP safesite and captured extensive files, documents and microfilm. These contained evidence of research and surveillance on the U.S. ambassador and about 20 other U.S. embassy officers, but the terrorists have not carried out any attacks on U.S. diplomats since that time. (See the issue of 2 December 1975.) However, in view of the latest information on ERP intentions the U.S. Military Group has tightened its security.

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Over the past few months the ERP has been decimated by Argentine security forces. Its chief, Mario Roberto Santucho, and some of its top lieutenants have been killed. Under these conditions ERP planning probably will continue to exceed ERP operational capabilities. On the other hand, if the ERP merges with the Montoneros, [redacted] this picture could quickly change. [redacted]

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TERRORIST THREATS AND PLANS

Tab B includes all reasonably credible reports of planned terrorist activity. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] However, terrorist groups often discuss general intentions or make tentative plans for violent acts that they never succeed in carrying out. In nearly all the cases listed, the intended target and appropriate governments have been informed of the threat.

** Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

I. Western Hemisphere, Including the United States

Target: U.S. BUSINESSES

Place: Argentina

Date: 19-22 August 1976

** Terrorists plan to attack U.S. businesses in Argentina between 19 and 22 August, according to a U.S. businessman who was so advised by a government security official. The terrorists plan to take over factories and blow up parts of them to halt production. The U.S. embassy commented that they have other information which indicates possible terrorist activities around 22 August to commemorate the Trelew martyrs. [redacted] 3.5(c)

[redacted]

Target: Security Guards at Foreign Embassies

Place: Argentina, Buenos Aires

** According to captured documents provided to the U.S. embassy, the ERP and Montoneros have decided jointly to attack the security guards at the foreign embassies in Buenos Aires to

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Date:	Current	secure portable radio equipment and weapons. The terrorists will kill the targeted individuals. 3.5(c)
Target:	MORMON MISSION PRESIDENT	The president of the Mormon Mission in Buenos Aires received two anonymous telephone calls which warned that he and his family should watch out. 3.5(c)
Place:	Argentina, Buenos Aires	
Date:	Current	

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Target: Argentina Diplomats

Place: Europe Latin America

Date: Current

The Argentine government has alerted its diplomats about a possible terrorist attack by a Paris-based group.

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Central Intelligence Agency

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31 August 1977

NOTES

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Going Out With a Bang

A violent explosion which occurred in Buenos Aires on 25 August was caused by disillusioned Montoneros blowing up their weapons and supplies, according to the Argentine police. Leaflets found at the scene of the early morning blast stated that because the Montonero leadership had fled the country some of the remaining members had decided to abandon the struggle and destroy their armaments. The police were not able to apprehend those responsible for the explosion. [redacted]

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